

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 /050 W

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R 180912Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9418

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: REPORTED SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 296610

1. BEL-TIGHTENING REMARK OCCURRED DURING INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR TOON  
(FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED NEA/IAL.)  
BY GALEI ZAHAL (ARMY NETWORK) NEWS MAGAZINE OCTOBER 10, 1975. THE  
RELEVANT QUOTE IS INVOLVED IN TWO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH FOLLOW:

QUESTION: MR. AMBASSADOR, THIS NIGHT WAS THE END OF A LONG  
PROCESS OF CONFIRMING THE AGREEMENT BY CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE DIFFICULTIES OR THE LONG PERIOD THAT IT TOOK  
TO  
CONFIRM THE AGREEMENT? IS IT BECAUSE OF A GAME OF POWER BETWEEN THE  
TWO COUNTRIES OR IS IT MORE SUBSTANTIAL?

AMBASSADOR: WELL, I THINK IT IS BASICALLY WHAT WE CALL A  
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION. THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC UNDER-  
STANDABLY, I THINK, ARE CONCERNED -- ESPECIALLY WITH THE BACKGROUND W  
E  
HAVE WITH VIETNAM -- WITH ANY PROPOSAL TO SEND AMERICAN CIVILIANS  
ABROAD INTO AN AREA OF POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION. I THINK THAT HAS BASIC  
ALLY  
BEEN THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ADMINISTRAT  
ION'S

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PROPOSAL. I THINK IT IS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROPOSAL ITSELF

LF --

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH I MUST POINT OUT IN ALL FRANKNESS, I, AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HERE, AND I THINK MOST OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS, WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF WE HAD NOT HAD TO GO THIS ROUTE -- IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE SINAI TWO AGREEMENT, AS WE CALL IT, WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE PASSES. WE DID FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF DEPENDED ON THIS, THEN WE WERE PREPARED TO PAY THIS PRICE. AND I THINK MOST OF US CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT TO BE AN ESSENTIAL, AN IMPORTANT MOVE IN ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE AREA, AND FOR THIS REASON WE'RE PREPARED TO PAY THE PRICE AND I THINK THAT WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECISION BY THE CONGRESS.

QUESTION: YOU ARE TALKING, MR. AMBASSADOR, ABOUT A CERTAIN PRICE. WILL THIS PRICE ALSO BE REPRESENTED IN THE PUBLIC OPINION OF THE UNITED STATES? I MEAN, COULD THIS BRING TO A POSSIBLE EROSION IN THE POSITIVE IMAGE OF ISRAEL IN THE UNITED STATES -- THE TECHNICIANS ISSUE AND THE FOREIGN AID?

AMBASSADOR: WELL, THE FOREIGN AID QUESTION IS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT QUESTION WHICH PERHAPS I COULD ADDRESS A LITTLE BIT LATER. I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO RESULT IN AN EROSION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN ISRAELI REQUEST. IT WAS A REQUEST WHICH, YOU MIGHT SAY, MORE OR LESS, GREW OUT OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESSES THAT DEVELOPED AND IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT NOT ONLY ISRAEL BUT ALSO THE EGYPTIANS FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE PASSES IF, IN FACT, AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. SO I DON'T THINK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS NECESSARILY HAS A BEARING ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. ON THE QUESTION OF AID, LET ME JUST BE PERFECTLY FRANK ABOUT THIS. NOT ONLY AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, BUT ALSO AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, I THINK IT'S OBVIOUS FROM OUR RECORD DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SURVIVAL A

ND  
SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND WE ARE PREPARED TO PAY A LARGE PRICE FOR THIS  
AS WE  
HAVE IN THE PAST. I THINK AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT'S INCUMBENT U  
PON  
YOU, MY ISRAELI FRIENDS, TO TEMPER YOUR APPETITE, TO MAKE SURE THAT W  
HAT  
YOU ARE ASKING FOR IS ONLY WHAT IS NEEDED. AND AT THE SAME TIME, TO  
DEMONSTRATE A FEELING OF RESTRAINT, NOT ONLY IN WHAT YOU REQUEST OF T  
HE  
AMERICAN CONGRESS IN THE WAY OF ECONOMIC AND MILIARY AID, BUT ALSO IN  
THE  
WAY YOU BEHAVE IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY. I THINK THAT YOUR REQUESTS, WHICH  
I AM  
SURE YOU WILL ADMIT, ARE CONSIDERABLE IN SIZE, WOULD BE MUCH BETTER  
RECEIVED BY THE AMERICAN CONGDSS, AND CERTAINLY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC,  
IF  
WE WERE CONVINCED THAT YOU WERE ENGAGED IN A BELT-TIGHTENING EXERCISE  
YOURSELF IN ISRAEL. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THI  
S SORT OF  
THING AND TO DO WHATEVER YOU CAN IN ORDER TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.

2. BELIEVE REFERENCE OF CONCERN ON SECRETARY'S PART OVER STRONG CRITI  
CISM  
IN ISRAEL OF U.S POLICY CONTAINED IN SPEECH DELIVERED IN RUSSIAN BY  
AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 10 BEFORE BNAI BRITH ORGANIZATION. TEXT THIS  
SPEECH WAS CABLE TO DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 8 (TEL AVIV 7711).  
TOON

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